



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 * PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Direct Inquiries to:

Sergeant Harold A. Sanders

Contact: "pio@azdps.gov"

Collision Information: State Route 51 at Northern Avenue Southbound

On Thursday, September 7, 2006, between 10:15 and 10:20 PM, there were two separate collisions that occurred on State Route 51, north of Northern Avenue in the southbound travel lanes. One collision involved injury to a Phoenix Police Department Police Officer.

Officer Jonathan Howard, Phoenix Police Department, was southbound on State Route 51 near Northern Avenue when he came upon a two-vehicle non-injury collision in the HOV lane. It was raining at the time of the first collision. Officer Howard was out of his vehicle as he began the process of protecting the collision scene with flares and moving the involved vehicles out of the roadway until Department of Public Safety Officers arrived to take disposition.

A 2000 Toyota 4Runner was southbound approaching the collision scene when the driver did not perceive the Police Officer placing out flares and the collision scene hazard until too late. The driver then began braking causing the Toyota to hydroplane on the wet roadway surface and drove into the Officer.

Officer Howard, the only one injured in both collisions was treated on scene by Phoenix Fire Department personnel and transported to John C. Lincoln Hospital-Dunlap for treatment. Officer Howard's condition was listed as good with multiple abrasions and lacerations. At the time of this news release he was being held for observation. For any update information on Officer Howard's condition please contact the Phoenix Police Department.

State Route 51 was closed from Shea Road to Northern Avenue for approximately two and half hours to protect both collision scenes, vehicle drivers and Police Officers due to the area being on a curve presenting poor visibility for approaching southbound traffic and the wet roadway surface.

The driver of the Toyota 4Runner was Lisa Biliack, age 21, from Scottsdale. Enforcement action against the driver is pending at this time.